(b) if so, the steps Government has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) There is tremendous potential for Cruise Tourism in the country. Accordingly, the Cruise Shipping Policy of Ministry of Shipping has been approved. The following projects have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism for development of Cruise Tourism in 2008-09.

1. Development of tourism infrastructure at Cochin Port, Kerala for Rs. 1450.00 lakh to Cochin Port Trust, Kochi.

2. Purchase of Ferries in Tamil Nadu for Rs,52.70 lakh to Poompuhar Shipping Corporation Ltd., Chennai.

The Cochin Port was also one of the eleven ports in the world which hosted the Volvo Ocean Race from 3rd to 13th December, 2008.

Incredible India Campaign

682. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the status of foreign tourist arrivals in India during past three years and in 2009 till date;

(b) whether it has declined;

(c) the status of 'Incredible India' campaign;

(d) the action plan of Government to give a boost to medical tourism in the country; and

(e) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) The number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India and the growth rates over the corresponding period of previous year during 2006, 2007, 2008 and January-June 2009, are given below:

Period	FTAs (in Million)	Growth over previous year
2006	4.45	13.5%
2007	5.08	14.3%
2008*	5.37	5.6%
2009* January-June	2.47	-9.3%

*Provisional

While the number of FTAs during 2006, 2007 and 2008 show a rising trend, during the period January-June 2009 there has been a decline. However, a positive growth rate of 0.2% in FTAs was observed in June, 2009 over June, 2008.

(c) The Incredible India Campaign is an ongoing activity in the print and electronic media and on the internet, in key source markets overseas for promoting India as a preferred tourist destination.

In the year 2008-09, Ministry of Tourism launched 7 International Media Campaigns in different markets.

(d) and (e) Government of India has taken various measures to promote Medical Tourism in the country. These include extending financial support under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme to Medical Tourism Service Providers and Medical Tourism Facilitators for promotion of Medical Tourism in overseas markets, introduction of an additional category of 'Medical Visa' for foreign tourists coming to India for medical treatment, production of publicity material on Medical Tourism and dissemination of information on Medical Tourism through the India Tourism Offices and on the website of the Ministry of Tourism. The specific promotions are also being undertaken through India Tourism Offices in overseas markets by participation in various international fairs.

Foreign Tourists

683. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of India in the world during 2005, 2006 and 2007 was only 0.49 per cent, 0.52 per cent and 0.55 per cent, respectively in Foreign Tourist Arrivals and the share during 2008;

(b) whether there were about 7.59 million international tourist arrivals in Singapore in 2006 as compared to 4.45 million foreign tourist arrivals in India;

(c) how does India compare with Thailand, Sri Lanka, Philippines, regarding Foreign Tourist Arrivals;

(d) Government's reaction to the above statistics; and

(e) the remedial steps taken to attract tourists from foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) As per the latest estimates, the share of India in the international tourist arrivals during the years 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 was 0.49 per cent, 0.52 per cent, 0.56 percent and 0.58 per cent respectively.

(b) to (d) Number of international tourist arrivals in Singapore, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Philippines and India during 2006 and 2007 are given below:

Country	International Tourist Arrivals (million)		
	2006	2007	Growth rate 2007/06
Singapore	7.59	7.96	4.9%
Thailand	13.82	14.46	4.6%
Sri Lanka	0.56	0.49	(-)11.7%
Philippines	2.84	3.09	8.7%
India	4.45	5.08	14.3%

The growth rate of tourist arrivals in India in 2007 over 2006 has been higher than all these countries. It may also be noted that the arrival figures of these countries except Sri Lanka include the